

Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena

December 199 /

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage	Crops	Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property		

NEW MEXICO. Southeast

NMZ027>029	Guadalupe Mountains Of Eddy County - Eddy County Plains - Lea								
	20	0400MST			0	0			Heavy Snow
		1600MST							

The first of three upper level storms to hit New Mexico within one week started snowing in Eddy County before dawn. By the end of the storm the northern 2/3 of Eddy County had four inches or more of snow. The extreme northern portions of the county were hit hardest with Hope receiving nine inches. In Lea County the heavy snows were mainly confined to the northern third of the county. In southeastern Lea County the precipitation was intense, but was mainly in the form of rain.

NMZ027>029	Guadalupe Mountains Of Eddy County - Eddy County Plains - Lea								
	22	1700MST			0	0	100K		Heavy Snow
	23	0800MST							

Motorists were stranded in their vehicles near Queen in the Lincoln National Forest along Highway 137 and were rescued by the Sheriffs Deputies.

The second in the series of storm systems dumped heavy snow two days after storm #1. This system was characterized by very strong lift in a deformation zone northeast of the center of upper level low pressure. The actual passage of the upper low was relatively quiet with only some flurries in the mountains as the lift stayed ahead of the upper low to the northeast.

Heaviest snows were in Eddy County with Hope again leading the way with 10 inches and Lakewood with 8 inches. Four to six inches of snow were common around much of the county. U.S. Highway 285 north of Artesia and U.S. Highway 82 west of Artesia were closed. Power was knocked out over much of northern Eddy County with the heavy, wet snow bringing down power lines in some instances.

Having people isolated without power plus little means to assist these people with county resources, Governor Gary Johnson declared a State of Emergency in Eddy County and other counties north and west. This declaration allowed State of New Mexico assistance in the form of personnel and equipment as well as to coordinate of their implementation.

Northern Lea County was again hit harder than the southern end of the county with 4 inches reported at Tatum.

NMZ027>029	Guadalupe Mountains Of Eddy County - Eddy County Plains - Lea								
	25	0100MST			0	0			Heavy Snow
	26	0100MST							

The last in the series of storms systems in one week passed through southeast New Mexico on Christmas Day, dumping 6+ inches of snow over most of Eddy County and 4+ inches over much of Lea County. This storm affected the area longer than the previous two events with snow falling in some part of southeast New Mexico for 24 hours. In northwestern Eddy County, Hope finished the three events with an incredible 29 inches of snow.

TEXAS West TXZ057

Van Horn/Guadalupe Mountains Area									
22	1600MST				0	0			Heavy Snow
23	0200MST								

The second in the series of storm systems dumped heavy snow two days after storm #1. This system was characterized by very strong lift in a deformation zone northeast of the center of upper level low pressure. The actual passage of the upper low was relatively quiet with only some flurries in the mountains as the lift stayed ahead of the upper low to the northeast.

At Pine Springs, Guadalupe Mountains National Park rangers reported accumulations of 6 inches from the storm. Highway Department workers were able to keep U.S. Highway 62/180 open through the event.

TEXAS Central TXZ049-053-054- 098-099-113-114- 127-128

Fisher-Mitchell-Nolan-Haskell-Throckmorton-Jones-Shackelford-Taylor-Callahan									
26	0100CST				0	0			Winter Storm
	1000CST								

A winter storm dropped 2 to 5 inches of snow across the Big Country.